

## *State Bar of Texas Government Law Section Names Victor A. Flores 2021 Rising Advocate in Government Law*

The State Bar of Texas Government Law Section named Victor A. Flores, of Brownsville, as its 2021 Rising Advocate in Government Law Award recipient during the 33rd annual Advanced Government Law Seminar. The award recognizes a Texas lawyer who is employed by a government entity and has made outstanding contributions to the practice of government law and serving the public. Flores is an attorney with the Brownsville City Attorney's Office. He was also recognized for his contributions as a speaker and author at various statewide seminars for attorneys practicing government law. He has served as legal counsel to several communities in South and North Texas. He is also a past president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. For the past four years, Flores has authored an article on government law for the *Texas Bar Journal's* annual Year in Review feature.



### **DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION NAMES CHERYL WATTLEY AS TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR**

The Dallas Bar Association named Cheryl Wattlely as the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Trial Lawyer of the Year Award, to be presented at the DBA's Bench Bar Conference in Horseshoe Bay on November 4. The award is given annually to the DBA member who best exemplifies the noble principles of the legal profession. Wattlely, a professor at UNT Dallas College of Law, worked with non-governmental organizations through the International Human Rights Clinic to provide shadow reports in relation to countries' mandatory human rights reports to the United Nations. The work of her students contributed to an amendment to a Central American country's education statutes to remove corporal punishment for indigenous students as allowable discipline. Wattlely also does pro bono work with Centurion Ministries, a nonprofit dedicated to the vindication of the wrongly convicted, which led to the recent release of Benjamine Spencer after 34 years in a Texas penitentiary. For more information about the Dallas Bar Association, go to [dallasbar.org](http://dallasbar.org).



### **APPELLATE SECTION PRESENTS AWARDS TO LAW STUDENTS**

The State Bar of Texas Appellate Section gave Excellence in Appellate Advocacy Awards to nine graduating Texas law school students. The awards recognize students who showed excellence in appellate advocacy, based on the recommendations from their law schools. Award recipients are Andrew Swallows, of Baylor Law School; Blake Glatstein, of SMU Dedman School of Law; Javier Gonzalez, of South Texas College of Law Houston; Melissa Sharon Fullmer, of St. Mary's University School of Law; Rolando Reyna Jr., of Texas A&M University School of Law; Sara Baumgardner, of Texas Tech University School of Law; Mariah Zenrene Noyola, of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law; Kade Beyer, of the University of Houston Law Center; and Elizabeth Hamilton, of the University of Texas School of Law.

### **STATE BAR PARALEGAL DIVISION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division has elected the following members to its officer positions and board of directors for the 2021-2022 bar year: officers include Susi Boss (president), Lisa Pittman (president-elect), Alice Lineberry (secretary), Eugene Alcalá (treasurer), and Shannon Shaw (parliamentarian). The board of directors includes Kim Goldberg (District 1), Eugene Alcalá (District 2), Wayne Baker (District 3), Alice Lineberry (District 4), Pearl Garza (District 5), Erica Anderson (District 7), Shannon Shaw (District 10), Stacey Marquez (District 11), Pamela Snavelly (District 12), Shannon Happney (District 14), Georgina Guzman (District 15), and Rhonda Brashears (PD coordinator).

### **HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS AT ANNUAL DINNER**

The Houston Bar Association welcomed 2021-2022 President Jennifer A. Hasley and recognized outstanding service by members at its annual dinner on July 15. David J. Beck, founding partner in Beck Redden, received the Justice Eugene A. Cook Professionalism Award, and Susan L. Bickley, a partner in Blank Rome, received the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Award. 2020-2021 President Bill Kroger presented Special Recognition Awards for exemplary service to the legal profession and community to Dean Michael F. Barry, of South Texas College of Law Houston; Dean Joan R.M. Bullock, of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law; and Dean Leonard M. Baynes, of the University of Houston Law Center, for leadership in legal education and community engagement. Committees honored for their achievements in 2020-2021 were the Bench Bar Conference Committee, County Law Library Committee, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Fun Run Committee, Gender Fairness Committee, The Houston Lawyer Editorial Board, Implicit Bias Task Force, Law Week Committee, and LegalLine Committee. For more information about the Houston Bar Association, go to [hba.org](http://hba.org).

### **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW NAMES ROOM AFTER AUSTIN ATTORNEY**

American University Washington College of Law named the Thomas W. George Courtroom in the Capital Building in honor of Austin attorney Thomas W. George. George's daughter, Caroline George Schaefer, and her husband, David, made the gift in celebration of George's 80th birthday, his esteemed legal and academic career, and his passion for commitment to American University Washington College of Law. **TBJ**